

**DUTY STATEMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS - ATASCADERO  
NUTRITION SERVICES**

<b>JOB CLASSIFICATION: REGISTERED DIETITIAN - SAFETY</b>
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**1. MAJOR TASKS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Provides Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) including nutrition assessments, develops and implements nutritional care plans, and provides education for clients/patients in a state facility; participates as a member of the interdisciplinary team.

According to Hospital and Nutrition Services Policies/Procedures/Standards of Care:

**50 %**

**Nutrition Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation**

- A. Completes nutrition assessments utilizing the Nutrition Care Process for each assigned patient.**
- B. Attends and consults with members of the treatment and interdisciplinary team.**
- C. Initiates a more intensive MNT plan for patients identified at higher nutritional risk.**
- D. Addresses weight changes, diet changes and other issues as referred or requested; and those scheduled for nutrition review.**
- E. Monitors and evaluates effectiveness of nutrition interventions and outcomes. Participates in multidisciplinary disease or medication management clinics as assigned.**
- F. Provides routine visitation at least weekly to assigned units. Assists in identifying potential referrals.**
- G. Observes meal service and consumption for assigned units at least monthly and more frequently as needed to assess and monitor nutritional status. Includes on-unit observation for patients fed long-term on units and short-term cases as needed.**
- H. Maintains current patient profile information on assigned patients. Includes weights, current diet, special instructions, food preferences, and allergies/intolerances.**
- I. Assists and advises clinical personnel on specific nutritional needs of patients and interprets prescription for special MNT diets.**
- J. Applies evidence-based practice to provide nutrition services in compliance with regulatory standards.**
- K. Monitors and evaluation effectiveness of MNT interventions and outcomes.**

20 %

**Nutrition Therapy Plan Implementation**

- A. **Implements the nutrition therapy plan in collaboration with the treatment/interdisciplinary team.** Plans include diet modifications; individual modified diet, food/drug, and nutrition education and counseling; monitoring patient progress; and further recommendations for evaluation and treatment.
- B. **Communicates to Nutrition Services staff and monitors the individualized patient meal/nourishment plans.**
- C. **Provides consultation to unit staff and patients as problems or questions arise regarding MNT.** Examples: providing input for the treatment/interdisciplinary team regarding the patient's nutritional status, progress, and level of functioning in nutrition related skills; attending the Treatment Planning Conference per request or priority; reviewing nursing care plans and team conference reports for nutritional relevancy; and providing feedback to unit management when needed.
- D. **Participates in department meetings, professional practice groups and hospital committees.**

15%

**Performance Improvement/Resource and Training Functions**

- A. Implements facility goals and objectives including Continuous Quality Improvement/Performance Improvement (PI) activities; maintains active membership as directed on department and/or hospital committees.
- B. Evaluates activities pertaining to work assignment and makes recommendations for work improvement. This to include, as assigned, managing an area of clinical responsibility (e.g., diet menu analysis, new products, clinical forms, etc.), participating in clinical project planning and implementation (e.g., Diet Manual updates) and act as the diet office liaison.
- C. As directed, assists in the orientation of new clinical staff; provides training to Nutrition Services and other hospital staff (e.g., Food Sanitation and Safety, Diet Manual updates).
- D. Acts as a primary and/or ancillary preceptor for Dietetic Intern(s) and completes other duties as assigned.
- E. Liaisons with assigned programs and departments in providing and receiving information relevant to Nutrition Services and resolving PI issues.
- F. Maintain competence in diet office functions.
- G. Maintains valid Dietitian Registration and keeps abreast of current MNT and other related nutrition issues. Examples: RD in-services, trainings workshops, classes, literature review, etc.
- H. Completes other duties as assigned for operational needs.

**10%**

**Plans and Provides Nutrition Group Education**

- A. Develops lesson plans, curriculum and maintains current and appropriate education materials.
- B. Delivers group education opportunities for patients and ancillary staff.

**5%**

**Safety/Security/ Infection Control/Emergency Response**

- A. **Conducts self with professionalism and maintains requirements in safety, security, infection control, emergency response, and a non-hostile work environment.** Examples: Adheres to infection control and health/hygiene standards, e.g., hand hygiene, no smoking/tobacco/etc. on grounds, personal hygiene, dress code. Standard universal precautions, reports infectious/communicable diseases, completes annual health review in birth month. Follows established food safety procedures when assisting with food production/service for inspections, emergencies, etc. Visually inspects work area for safety alerts and immediately reports hazards; submits work order if needed; follows body ergonomics; uses equipment safely; uses chemicals and equipment per SDS (Safety Data Sheets); informs supervisor immediately when involved in a major or minor injury/accident; follows procedures for the control of contraband and reports missing contraband immediately; maintains secure work area; reports & documents patient adverse behavior; adheres to relationship security requirements; responds appropriately in red light emergencies, shakedowns, or interruption of routine operations; reports to work as scheduled or directed during hospital or community emergencies/implements role/participates in alternate feeding plans; maintains a non-disruptive, non-hostile work environment; follows requirements in nondiscrimination, sexual harassment prevention, patient rights, abuse prevention, codes of conduct, treatment of others with professionalism, respect, and courtesy;

- 2. **SUPERVISION RECEIVED:** Supervised by the Assistant Director of Dietetics-Clinical or employee assigned to act in his/her capacity.
- 3. **SUPERVISION EXERCISED:** Assist in orienting new registered dietitians/dietetic technicians/dietetic interns; function as Acting Assistant Director of Dietetics when assigned; provide direction in the provision of nutrition services during an emergency.

#### 4. KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES

##### KNOWLEDGE OF:

Principles, practices and theories of nutrition and dietetics; including MNT; methods of planning, preparing, and serving food to a large number of persons; and special dietary requirements of mentally or developmentally disabled persons.

##### ABILITY TO:

Apply the principles and practices of nutrition and dietetics; including MNT; assess nutritional status and develop nutrition care plans; communicate nutritional data to the written record and to the health care team; explain dietetic requirements to clients/patients, staff, and others; keep records and prepare reports; analyze situations accurately and adopt an effective course of action.

#### 5. REQUIRED COMPETENCIES:

##### INFECTION CONTROL

Applies knowledge of correct methods for controlling the spread of pathogens appropriate to job class and assignment.

##### SAFETY

Actively supports a safe and hazard free workplace through practice of personal safety and vigilance in the identification of safety or security hazards.

CPR N/A

##### AGE SPECIFIC

Provides services commensurate with age of clients/patients being served. Demonstrates knowledge of growth and development of the following age categories:

Pediatric	Adolescent	<b>X Adult</b>	<b>X Geriatric</b>
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##### MANAGEMENT OF ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR

Applies and demonstrates knowledge of correct methods of Therapeutic Strategies and Interventions (TSI).

##### CULTURAL AWARENESS

Demonstrates awareness to multi-cultural issues in the workplace that enables the employee to work effectively.

##### PRIVACY AND SECURITY OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

Maintains and safeguards the privacy and security of patients' protected health information (PHI) and other individually identifiable health information (IIHI) whether it is in paper, electronic, or verbal form in compliance with HIPAA and all other applicable privacy laws.

##### SITE SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES

- Assess nutritional status for the adult or geriatric male.
- Provide for and monitor age-related nutritional needs.
- Applies and demonstrates knowledge of correct methods in providing nutrition

education and counseling to patients.

- Effectively interfaces with the interdisciplinary treatment team while providing consultation to develop and implement the MNT treatment plans.
- Relationship Security: Demonstrates professional interactions with patients and maintains therapeutic boundaries.

**TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY (SITE SPECIFIC):**

- Applies knowledge of MNT in a psychiatric setting.
- Applies and demonstrates knowledge in providing drug-nutrient counseling on psychiatric medications.

**6. LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION**

It is the employee's responsibility to maintain a license, credential, or required registration pertinent to their classification on a current basis. Any failure to do so may result in termination from Civil Service. Employees in this classification must:

- Possess valid registration with the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics.

**7. TRAINING** - Training Category = 02

The employee is required to keep current with the completion of all required training.

**8. WORKING CONDITIONS**

The employee is required to work any shift and schedule in a variety of settings throughout the hospital and may be required to work overtime and float to other work locations as determined by the operational needs of the hospital. All employees are required to have an annual health review and repeat health reviews whenever necessary to ascertain that they are free from symptoms indicating the presence of infection and are able to safely perform their essential job duties.

_____ Employee Signature	_____ Print Name	_____ Date
_____ Supervisor Signature	_____ Print Name & Title	_____ Date
_____ Reviewing Supervisor Signature	_____ Print Name & Title	_____ Date